

"Blue Devils"

Here to Carry Loan Over Top

France Sends Hundred Poilus and Officers Fresh From Front

Crowds Almost Strip Heroes of Buttons

All Wounded and War Decorations; Modest Regarding Feats

One hundred of the poilus—the men who made history at Verdun and the Marne—are in New York. They descended upon the city yesterday with the mud of Cambrai and La Fère still caked upon their boots and the din of battle still ringing in their ears. They are members of the famous chasseurs à pied, known familiarly to the Kaiser's men as "the blue devils." Every one of them wears the French War Cross for exceptional valor, many have the still more treasured Military Medal, the highest honor that France can pay a private soldier, and the much-coveted Legion of Honor.

Their dark blue tunics are covered with active service stripes, bars representing wounds received and other emblems of heroism; their bodies are scarred and seared. Their faces—clean-shaven, contrary to the general usage of French troops—are drawn and lined yesterday with the strain of battle, but their eyes gleamed with pleasure and confidence as they cheered the cheering crowd, responding to the shouts of "Vive l'Amérique!"

Gave Away Their Medals
The arrival of the Frenchmen came as a surprise even to the representatives of the French government here. Submarine dangers had inspired the French for absolute secrecy concerning their departure. As it was, a submarine encounter, the vessel a few miles out of Bordeaux, but a few weeks placed shots from the steamship's guns discouraged any idea of an engagement. The following fourteen days on shipboard passed without incident.

How long the "Blue Devils" will remain in this country is known to no one but officials of the French government, it was said. But the next few days at least are expected to be spent in New York seeing the sights, and the fifty Pershing veterans who have just returned from France and helping along the Liberty Loan drive by meeting the crowds at Liberty Land, in the 92nd Regiment Armory.

The first move made by the arriving plus yesterday was to visit Liberty Land, where they were received by members of the French High Commission and given an ovation by a struggling throng of photographers and office workers. In response to the demand for souvenirs the obliging poilus divested themselves of buttons and hat straps, and in some cases even of one of their legs, for the French government has decreed that the French face death to win. Guy Emerson, head of the publicity department of the Liberty Loan Committee, had to appeal to the poilus to resist. But the poilus, with unexampled amiability, protested that the requests were welcome.

"What is a medal more or less?" shrugged a corporal from Verdun.

Five Officers in Party
The men are covered by five commissioned officers whose names and household names in France. Every one of them has received all of the military honor that France can pay them, and the youngest man in France to receive the Legion of Honor—wears also the English War Cross.

"But I am not happy with medals alone," said Lieutenant Levie, "fortunately, I am unable to fight. The Boches wounded me six times and I received four medals. I am a prisoner, but then they blinded me and captured me. Now I have a glass eye and a natural eye which is only 25 per cent efficient. Furthermore, I am an exchanged prisoner, and as such cannot participate in the war."

Questioning developed that Lieutenant Levie had been blinded at Douaumont by a bursting grenade and that he had been ordered to bind up his eyes and lead him back to the rear. His men were defending. There, for six hours, sightless and in agony, he had directed the defense and saved his regiment. Refusing to be blind, he had participated in further fighting and had been captured and taken to Heidelberg, where a German physician operated upon his eyes.

"He ruined one of them, the villain!" said the lieutenant. "I regret I cannot pay them for that."

Pollus Expert Heroes
Lieutenant Levie was undergoing the prescribed course of French military service at Dunkirk when the war broke out. Four days later he was fighting in Belgium. In September, 1914, he was shot through the stomach at Berry-au-Bac. On March 10, 1915, he was wounded four times with dum-dum bullets, one piercing his lungs. He was nineteen years old then and was decorated with the Legion of Honor.

The story, told haltingly and in the embarrassment of modesty, was paralleled by all of his fellow officers with the same degree of hesitancy. Whenever the questioning veered around to exploits of personal bravery they maintained silence.

"Ask the private about bravery," said Lieutenant Kuznetsov, "he is a hero of the Croix de Guerre, with two citations stars. They are expert heroes day in and day out. If there is one thing of which we are proud it is that we are their officers."

And the Men Praise Officers

So Private Louis Babin, of the Eighth Infantry, was asked about his War Cross. He replied that the tall buildings expressed his interest in the war, and said he had the "honor" of being somewhat related to the field of journalism. He had been a pressman on "Le Progrès" of Lyons, before the war. "Le Progrès" has had to stop issuing," he said, "on account of the paper passed through Lyons on the way to Bordeaux to come here. My way to first time I had seen my wife for a while. It was only for five minutes. I had only one thing to say to her: 'I have been away for fifty-two and a half hours since the war began.'"

"But how about your decorations?" was suggested.

"I am nothing," was the reply. "Vive, ask my lieutenant; there he is. Lieutenant Cluzeau. He led us when all the other officers had fallen. He is superb!"

The tendency for the officers to laud only the private and the private to praise only the officers could not be surmounted. It remained for a private

THE "BLUE DEVILS" HERE TO HELP THE LOAN



Alpine Chasseurs, photographed atop the Equitable Building. They arrived yesterday and will parade during the loan campaign.

To tell how Lieutenant Edouard Podelvin left Dallas, Tex., where he was a cotton broker at the outbreak of the war, and made history at Verdun, the 3d zouaves, which, in the words of the commanding general, turned the tide of that famous struggle and saved Verdun from capture.

This was on February 24 and 25, 1916. The regiment was stationed at Pepper Hill. For two and a half days the Germans advanced in mass formations, and for two and a half days the zouaves shot them down by the hundreds. On the first day Lieutenant Podelvin was shot through the mouth, but fought on until a bullet broke his leg below the knee. He lay on the battlefield for three days, until picked up by the Germans and sent to Heidelberg.

"Nothing to print in that, is there?" asked the lieutenant. "The Paris papers had it months ago. If you want to say something, tell New Yorkers that there's as much chance of the Germans breaking through our lines now as there is of them taking New York."

Lieutenant Jean Canal, of the 43d Colonial Infantry, and Lieutenant Albert Le Mondal, of the 4th Battalion of the 11th Chasseurs, admitted five wounds apiece. They were asked that the American troops in France had little to learn.

"They are the finest soldiers possible," said Lieutenant Le Mondal. "I have seen them, and I know a soldier when I see one."

It was, however, from the ranks of the plain poilus that the greatest tribute to French heroism came. It was paid by Private Louis Bernoit, of the 36th Infantry, who left his carpenter's bench at Dunkirk at the beginning of the war, participated in the siege of Verdun and was severely wounded at Mesnil-le-Hurlus.

"I tell you, boys," he said, and his comrades nodded, "I've fought beside the French in the Imperial and spent the night at the 49th Regiment Armory. To-day at 2 p. m. they will march from the Battery to the City Hall, where they will be met by the Mayor and the city by Mayor Hylan and officials of the Liberty Loan Committee. They will then proceed to the 6th Regiment Armory and take part in a patriotic program in connection with the Liberty Loan exhibit. In the evening they will attend a Liberty Loan meeting in Carnegie Hall, at which Caruso will sing, and a concert at the Hotel de Ville, at which Caruso will sing."

X.P. Willey Appointed Senator From Missouri
ST. LOUIS, April 29.—Xenophon P. Willey, member of the St. Louis Board of Election Commissioners, tonight was tendered by Governor Gardner the seat in the United States Senate vacant recently by the death of Senator W. J. Stone. Willey announced he would accept, and left for Jefferson City to confer with the Governor.

Willey is the fourth man to be offered the Senatorship by the Governor. David R. Francis, Ambassador to Russia, was first offered the place, but Secretary of State Lansing was not in favor of his accepting it, as it would take him from his present important duties. Champ Clark, Speaker of the House of Representatives, next was tendered the appointment, but he declined. Chief Justice W. W. Graves of the Missouri Supreme Court also declined the appointment.

Willey is forty-seven years old and a lawyer. He taught school, and he was in the Missouri National Guard, and other cities in Missouri before being admitted to the bar, in 1899. He has since practiced law in St. Louis, and has been prominent in Democratic politics. He is active in Methodist Church circles.

N.Y. Men Commissioned in Aviation Corps

WASHINGTON, April 29.—Nine New York enlisted men, having completed training as non-flying officers in the aviation section of the Signal Reserve Corps, were commissioned today by the War Department as second lieutenants, as follows:

Joseph Swenson Buford, jr., 23 Pine Street; Ernest James Burke, 32 Nassau Street; John Edmund Jones Fanshawe, 7 Wall Street; Marston Haviland, 1327 Dean Street, Brooklyn; Alfred William Knapp, 1345 Franklin Avenue, Clinton; Robert G. Pearce, 645 Carlton Avenue, Brooklyn; Eugene Van Post Schwaab, 126 East Thirty-fourth Street; and William A. Terrell, 93 Cambridge Place, Brooklyn.

Chinese Troops for France

China is sending soldiers to France, according to a dispatch from Peking, military attaché to the President of China and to the Minister of War. He arrived in New York yesterday after a tour of military observation in Europe.

"China has troops now on the way to the battlefield," he said, "and the government will have 40,000 men fighting with the French by early summer. I just left France, and there remained ten officers who will select training camps sites in France for the Chinese troops."

Germans Get 3 New Guns

For Paris Bombardment
AMSTERDAM, April 29.—Three new long range German guns made at Düsseldorf, Belgium last Friday in the direction of France.

Firemen's Drive

Opens Purses for Liberty Bonds

Members of Department Hold Open Air Rallies Throughout City

The bells of the fire engines of the city clanged almost incessantly yesterday. Not because there was an unusual number of fires, but because the loyal men of the department realized that America's need for Liberty dollars was urgent. The day was known as Firemen's Day, and all the apparatus and man-power of the department exerted itself to help stir New York to do its full duty.

With Fire Chiefs J. Crawley and George Kuss and Captain Luke Flannigan of Engine 33 and Dr. Harry M. Archer, chief medical officer of the Fire Department, as speakers, the firemen took charge of the booth at the bell in City Hall Park and coaxed thousands of dollars from the pockets of the thousands who listened to their appeals.

When on his way to City Hall Chief Crawley said he was asked to what fire he was going. His reply was: "To the biggest fire in the world—the fire of Liberty bonds. The amount in which this fire can be checked. It can't be done by the Fire Department alone. It needs every man, woman and child in the country. The amount of subscriptions received. It was said, reached a large sum, although tabulations were not completed last night."

Many New Subscriptions
Outside of the Federal Reserve Bank the following subscriptions from individuals and corporations were announced yesterday:

American Smelting and Refining Co.	\$1,000.00
Nigeria Guy Ewari	500.00
Robert Walton Golet	500.00
Baldwin Locomotive Works	300.00
Samuel McMillin	250.00
Schmidt & Gallatin	200.00
Carl H. Portholmer & Co.	200.00
Emerson McGinnis	200.00
American Light and Traction Co.	150.00
Amex Knitting Works	150.00
Emerson McGinnis	150.00
New York Dock Co.	125.00
Dickinson, Ruffell & Co.	111.10
Carl Schenck	100.00
H. R. Mallinson & Co. (additional)	100.00
Goldstein & Co.	100.00
Hofstad & Stern	100.00
Harold & Stern	100.00
J. J. Manning	100.00
Pyramid Silk Corporation	85.00
Smith & Fuller Co.	75.00
E. R. Squibb & Sons	75.00
Campania Petrolera de Tepepate	75.00
Amex Knitting Works	75.00
Pyramid Silk Corporation	75.00
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